



POWERGRAM

A monthly newsletter for OCEC Members

MAKE YOUR MARK - YOUTH TOUR 2026

Every generation leaves behind a legacy, footprints that shape the future. The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour is your chance to do the same. For over 60 years, electric cooperatives have sent high school students to Washington, D.C., to discover their voice, step into history and begin writing the story only they can tell.

This once-in-a-lifetime experience isn't just about seeing the nation's capital. It's about preparing students to lead, to grow, and to make their mark on the world.

What's in it for students?

Delegates from New Mexico will join more than 1,800 students from across the country in Washington, D.C., June 15-21, 2026. During the trip, students will:

- Develop leadership skills through hands-on experiences and workshops
- Strengthen their resumes with a nationally recognized program that stands out to colleges and employers
- Connect with peers from 44 states, building friendships that last long after the trip
- Meet with elected officials and learn how government impacts their communities
- Experience history up close by visiting world-class museums and monuments
- Learn about cooperatives and how they support rural communities across America

The best part? All expenses—travel, lodging, meals, and program costs—are covered by Otero County Electric. The program is coordina-

ted by the New Mexico Rural Electric Cooperative Association and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

Don't Let This Opportunity Pass By

Applications for Youth Tour will be accepted until **January 20, 2026**. If you know a high school sophomore, junior, or senior who is ready to grow as a leader and take the next step in their journey, encourage them to apply today.

The application may be downloaded at www.ocec-inc.com, picked up from your school counselor, or at your local OCEC office.

This is more than a trip—it's a chance to leave your mark.



2025 OCEC Youth Tour Delegates from Left to right: Emily Grinder, Isabella Salcido, Marisa Romero, and Kenya Fernandez-Chacon.



NOVEMBER CALENDAR PHOTO
submitted by DeMarco Salazar

**NOVEMBER
2025**

CLOUDCROFT
575-682-2521

ALTO
575-336-4550

CARRIZOZO
575-648-2352

LOBBY HOURS
8 AM - 4 PM
MONDAY - FRIDAY

**TO REPORT AN
OUTAGE, CALL**
1-800-548-4660

**FOR BALANCE
INFORMATION OR TO
PAY YOUR BILL, CALL**
1-855-940-3957

WWW.OCEC-INC.COM

Happy Thanksgiving

OCEC Offices will be closed November 27 & 28.



VEGETATION MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Crews working to trim trees and vegetation in rights-of-way are currently in the following areas and are expected to remain there for the next few weeks.

- o Barney Luck
- o MonJean
- o Alto
- o Village of Cloudcroft
- o Ponderosa Pines subdivision

We kindly ask for your cooperation when you see crews working to keep these areas clear. This task plays a vital role in reducing fire hazards and ensuring consistent delivery of power to members.

Please be aware that vegetation crews do not chip or remove dead limbs and brush after it is cut. They will make sure that it is not in a driveway, pathway, or creating any additional hazard. OCEC's main concern in vegetation management is powerline reliability and safety.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP

With the holiday season approaching and more time spent in the kitchen, consider ways to save energy in the heart of your home. When possible, cook meals with smaller, energy efficient appliances, such as toaster ovens, slow cookers and air fryers. When using the range, match the size of the pan to the heating element. Keep range-top burners and reflectors clean so they reflect heat more efficiently. After your holiday meals are complete, load the dishwasher fully before starting the wash cycle.

Source: energy.gov

WINTER DISCONNECT MORATORIUM

Protection from winter shut off begins November 15, 2025. To avoid potential disconnection of service, please contact the Human Services Department at 800-283-4465, or the appropriate tribal or pueblo entity for eligibility information for Low Income Heating Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

Your service will not be disconnected from November 15, 2025, through March 15, 2026, if you meet the qualifications of LIHEAP and have no past due amounts or remain current on any settlement or installment agreement for amounts due as of November 15, 2025.

Members of New Mexico tribes or pueblos who need help with translation or with other matters may contact the commission's consumer relations division at 888-427-5772, who will contact the appropriate tribal or pueblo official for assistance.

COMMON CAUSES OF POWER OUTAGES

There is never a good time for the power to go out, but if it happens on a sunny day, you might be left wondering why. Here are the most common causes of a power outage.

WEATHER

High winds, snow and ice can cause tree limbs to fall on power lines. Other weather effects, like wildfires and lightning strikes, can cause major damage to equipment.

CRITTERS

Squirrels, birds, snakes and other animals can inadvertently contact power lines, causing short circuits and disruptions to electrical supply.

Scheduled MAINTENANCE

Occasionally, we plan outages to perform upgrades or repairs to parts of the local grid.

ACCIDENTS

Vehicles can crash into utility poles, bringing down power lines. Construction and excavation work can also result in disruptions to underground lines.